

Dear FCC Commissioners:

A well-informed citizenry is a crucial component to a democratic society. That said, it is easy to see how the public would not be adequately served by media consolidation, when one owner controls a majority of mass media outlets in a given market. It would simply be too easy for the media to become a vehicle to publicize views of importance to the media owner. There would be no obligation for the media owner to offer a diversity of viewpoints, or views that contradicted their interests, even if doing so would better serve the public. Because one owner would control the media in that market, citizens would be severely limited in their ability to learn about dissenting or diverse viewpoints. Because there would be little, if any media competition, the public would have even less opportunity to seek out media alternatives in their market. Does the FCC honestly believe that media consolidation, where one owner dominates, best serves the public interest? This is simply too important of an issue to decide by June, without further deliberation or consideration of public comment. I believe the FCC has failed in its attempt to adequately involve the public in such a crucial issue. For that reason, I am asking the FCC to extend the comment period on this issue, and to conduct further study as to how media consolidation would impact the ability of the public to obtain a full-range of media options.

Respectfully,

Annie Kolb-Nelson